

with the new majority, we have increased from 1995 when we took control some 12 percent in spending, not tremendous increases of that past, but there has been a steady increase.

So contrary to some belief and some myths, we have been spending and increasing funding on treatment. But we know that dramatic reductions, again, in interdiction and source country programs cause problems. Those problems, of course, we are facing today in this budget battle.

Also on the agenda in Washington this week is how much money we put into additional assistance. Today's Washington Post has a story that berates the Congress a bit not moving forward on funding for Colombia.

I cited a success story the last couple of years in Peru and Bolivia where we have made great strides in curtailing illegal narcotics coming into the United States. In Colombia, we have a reverse situation.

The administration in 1993 began an effort to really close down our efforts to assist Colombia. First of all, they stopped information sharing. Next, they stopped overflights and also information sharing from those overflights. Where we shared information on shoot-down policies, basically the administration shot down that policy. For some time, we were left without providing any assistance.

The next dramatically destructive step that was taken was the decertification of Colombia. Now, Colombia could be decertified as not fully cooperating on the war of drugs, which is a Presidential responsibility in his annual assessment as charged by law. But there is in that law a provision for a waiver which would have allowed us to get equipment, resources to Colombia. In fact, that was not granted for several years. Until 1998, absolutely nothing went to Colombia.

In the meantime, we have seen the disruption of Colombia. We have seen nearly a million people displaced in 1 year, 300,000. We have seen some 30,000 people slaughtered, some 4,000 to 5,000 police and public officials, Members of Congress, the Supreme Court slaughtered in Colombia.

Now we see the disruption of Colombia and that disruption extending up into the Panama isthmus and to other countries. This region produces 20 percent of the United States daily oil supply, and suddenly this has become a crisis.

The Washington Post asked today in the current budget negotiation, "however, no one seems to be looking for money for Colombia."

One of my responsibilities of chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Relations is to find out where the money has gone, investigate how it has been expended.

Last year, we appropriated some \$287 million towards the antinarcotics effort in a supplemental package, again to try to get us back on track with Colombia and in the international arena and interdiction arena.

Today, this morning, and last week, I began a series of closed door meetings with the Department of State officials, DoD officials, in addition to public hearings that we have held, to find out where the money has gone.

Of the money, I have found that about \$200 million actually ended up going to the account designated for Colombia. Of that money, to date, only about half of the \$200 million has actually been expended.

Unfortunately, we have requested, and this has been a bipartisan request of the administration for the past 4 years, helicopters, equipment, resources, and assistance to Colombia so the Colombians can fight the Marxist insurgency that is financed by international narcotics, narcoterrorists. To date, unfortunately almost all of that equipment has not reached the shores of Colombia.

We are told that we had delivered this past weekend three helicopters. We have six other helicopters. We have nine helicopters in total of which, really, not any of them are fully capable of missions yet. Some still need armoring. To make matters worse, we found that the ammunition that we have requested year after year to provide to the Colombian national police and their enforcement folks that are going after the narcotraffickers had been shipped November 1, some few days ago. They could not even confirm this morning to me that that has arrived.

Now, we are willing to meet our budget obligations, and we will put into Colombia whatever money we need for Colombia to help get that situation under control. But we have repeatedly provided funding assistance. We have requested the administration to get resources, helicopters, ammunition, whatever it takes to go after the narcoterrorists.

I must report to the Speaker and the House of Representatives tonight that the track record is absolutely dismal of performance by the administration. So it is unfortunate that, even with a supposed request, and I asked this morning for a specific request of how much money the administration will be asking for, and we have heard anywhere from \$1 billion to \$2 billion, some folks have recommended as much as \$1.5 billion to assist them over a several-year period, we still do not have, and I still do not have as of this morning a specific proposal from the administration.

I think this will be the December surprise. I think that once the Congress has finished its work in the next few days that the Congress will be presented with a price tag for this failure, failure to get the equipment there, failure to get the resources there, failure to spend the money that the Congress has already expended.

So we are going to take a very hard look at that and see how those dollars should be expended. We will try to provide additional resources. But we must do it mindful of that we are guardians of the public Treasury and that those

dollars that we ask to appropriate in a fashion go to those specific projects, and that the administration follow through as directed by the Congress of the United States before we pour more money into this war. Again, we are committed to put in whatever dollars are necessary to bring this situation under control.

So we have a horrible situation getting worse. This last chart, as I close, shows the latest statistics showing from South America 65 percent of the heroin now an increase from 14 to 17 percent, the heroin coming from Mexico, and some 18 percent from southeast Asia. A picture that looks worse for Mexico, worse for South America, and worse for the American people and for the prospect of hard narcotics, in this case heroin, coming into our streets and our communities.

Finally, tomorrow we will meet with the Mexican officials, their attorney general, their other officials who will be here with a high level of working group to discuss the United States and Mexico efforts to get illegal narcotics through the major transit country, Mexico, under control. It is my hope that we can be successful, but we are also going to take a large look at Mexican cooperation, which has been lacking.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully next week we will have the opportunity with the Congress to come back and finish the narcotics report.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MATSUI (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 3:00 today on account of official business.

Mr. PASCRELL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOSSELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, today.